

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 31132 301713Z

47

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 OES-03

CEQ-01 EPA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 L-02 USIA-06 /051 W

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R 301707Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5472

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

FAA BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR-CONCORDE

REF: LONDON 16766

1. WE FULLY SHARE EMBASSY LONDON VIEWS REPORTED REFTEL, ESPECIALLY RE DESIRABILITY OF ADVANCE NOTICE, TEXT, AND FULLEST POSSIBLE PRESS GUIDANCE.

2. RE PARA 3 REFTEL, FRENCH PRESS MENTIONED CONCORDE ONLY IN PASSING IN REPORTS ON PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC'S RECENT VISIT TO IRAN. REPORTS HAVE ALSO BEEN CONFUSING, RANGING FROM STATEMENT THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON CONCORDE SALE TO IRAN CONTINUE TO REFERENCE TO POSSIBILITY THAT IRAN MAY NOW TAKE OPTION ON ONE OR TWO MORE CONCORDES FOLLOWING "FIRM SALE" OF THE FIRST TWO AIRCRAFT THAT WERE UNDER OPTION, I. E. IMPLYING THAT THIS FIRST SALE IS NOW SETTLED. WHEN WE QUERIED FOREIGN MINISTRY CIVAIR OFFICIAL, THIS OFFICIAL ALSO CONFESSED TO PUZZLEMENT OVER PRESS REPORTS. SHE SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN WERE INDEED WELL ADVANCED AND

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PAGE 02 PARIS 31132 301713Z

PROGRESSING FAVORABLY, BUT ADDED THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS

WERE ENTIRELY BRITISH SHOW. WHILE ON SUBJECT OF IRAN, WE MIGHT NOTE THAT FRENCH PRESS AND RADIO ALSO SEE-- INEVITABLY--POSSIBLE PANAM INTEREST IN JOINT OPERATION OF IRAN NATIONAL AIRLINES' CONCORDES AS ONE FACET OF CURRENT RUMORS OF IRANIAN OFFER OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PANAM.

3. RE LANDING AUTHORIZATION FOR CONCORDE AT US MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS FOR WHICH ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT WOULD PRESUMABLY BE PRELUDE TO FINAL DECISIONS, AIR FRANCE OFFICIAL JUST BACK FROM US CLAIMS THAT MASS. PORT AUTHORITY "HAS GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT" TO INAUGURATION OF REGULAR SERVICE TO BOSTON COMMENCING APRIL 1976 PEGGED TO US BICENTENNIAL. HE CLAIMED FAA HAD ALSO INDICATED IT WAS PREPARED APPROVE CONCORDE SERVICE TO DULLES AIRPORT AT WASHINGTON, DC. HE FURTHER SAID THAT NEW YORK HAD SHOWN NO INTEREST WHATEVER IN INTRODUCTION CONCORDE SERVICE PEGGED TO BICENTENNIAL AND, AS A RESULT, WHETHER CONCORDE WILL BE ABLE TO SERVE NEW YORK REMAINS HIGHLY UNCERTAIN. HOWEVER, FOREIGN MINISTRY CIVAIR OFFICIAL (WHO IS ALSO MEMBER OF GOF'S CONCORDE COMMITTEE) CLAIMED TO BE UNINFORMED ON ANY SUCH PLANS BY AIR FRANCE AND THOUGHT THEM PREMATURE. (COMMENT: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY LIGHT DEPT. AND/OR FAA/WASHINGTON CAN SHED ON WHERE THINGS STAND IN DISCUSSIONS HOWEVER INFORMAL BETWEEN US FEDERAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES, ON THE ONE HAND, AND FRENCH AND BRITISH ON THE OTHER CONCERNING CONCORDE SERVICE TO US POINTS. RUSH

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